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#1

OF 5



**Volume Five
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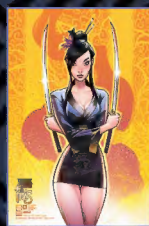
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"Blue Chip Prospect"

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DONNY TRAN

- pencils & digital inks -

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& LUIS GUERRERO (pg. 1)

- colors -

JAYMES REED

- letters -

VINCE HERNANDEZ,
GABE CARRASCO

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MARK ROSLAN

- design & production -

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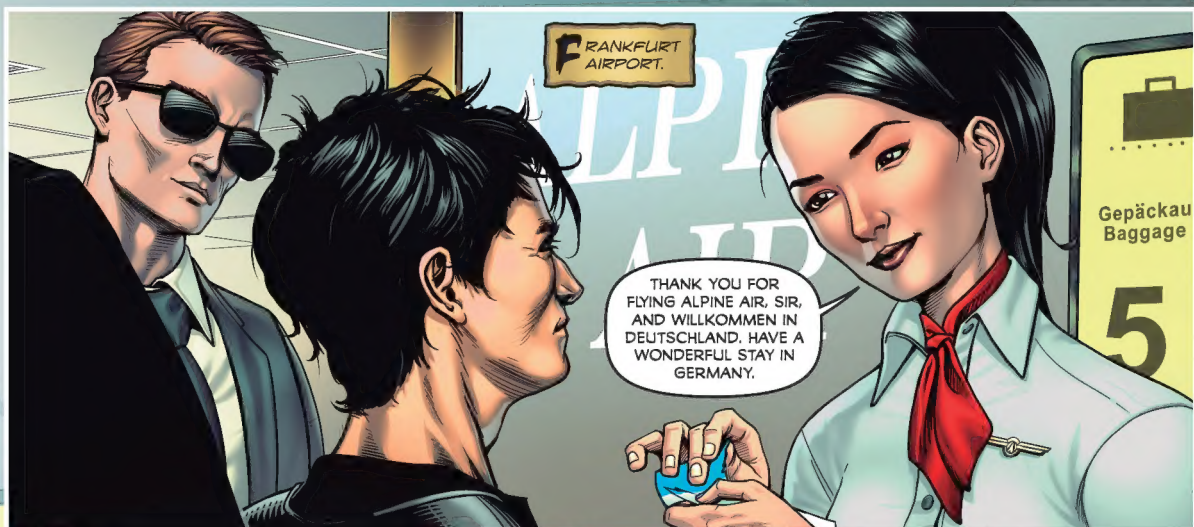
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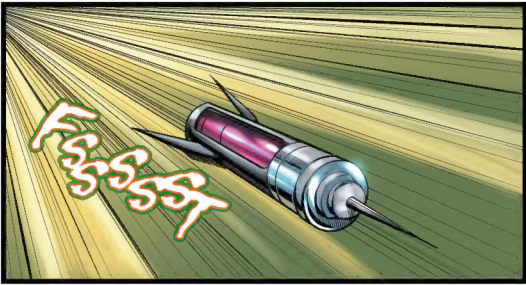
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I could watch
this footage on a
loop all day.

KRAAKK

UNNNNGGH!

The way she throws her body
into the line of fire for a client is
breathtaking. She's so loyal and
valiant...and fearless.



WHOK

It's like she's not
scared of anything.



Not even death.



NNNGHH!



And when someone crosses
her, she's ruthless, aggressive.
Aggression has it's uses.

WHOKK



WHAT'S GOING ON? AND WHO IN THE BLEEDING HELL ARE YOU?!

YOUR NEW **EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT**. YOUR MANAGER WAS NOT CONVINCED YOU HAD ENOUGH PROTECTION AND CALLED FOR BACK-UP.

I AM THE BACK-UP.



ARNOLD SENT YOU? THAT CHEEKY BASTARD! HE NEVER TOLD ME I WAS BEING FOLLOWED AROUND BY SOME STEWARDESS!

RELAYING MEMOS IS NOT MY DEPARTMENT. I AM HERE TO MAKE SURE YOU ARRIVE AT YOUR NEXT CONCERT IN ONE PIECE.



WELL, YOU DIDN'T STOP ME FROM GETTING **ELECTROCUTED**. DID YOU? AND WHEN YOU SEE **ARNOLD**, YOU TELL THAT SON OF A--

TRENT!
TRENT HAUNTWELL!



SORRY, LOVE...MEDIA CALLS. MAYBE YOU CAN FETCH MY **LUGGAGE** WHILE I HANDLE--



WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THE ATTACKER?

WAS HE HUMAN?

00:05:01

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN WORKING FOR **TRENT HAUNTWELL**?

DO YOU WORK FOR **MAGNI**?



LOS ANGELES.

AS YOU CAN SEE, **MISTER BRUNSON**, WE SPARE NO EXPENSE HERE AT **MAGNI GLOBAL**. IT'S WHY WE'RE THE LEADER IN WORLDWIDE SECURITY.

IS THAT SO, **DR. ZYRA**?



ABSOLUTELY. WE HAVE, TO BORROW A SPORTS ANALOGY, A STACKED ROSTER. OUR SELECTION OF AGENTS IS UNMATCHED IN THE INDUSTRY.

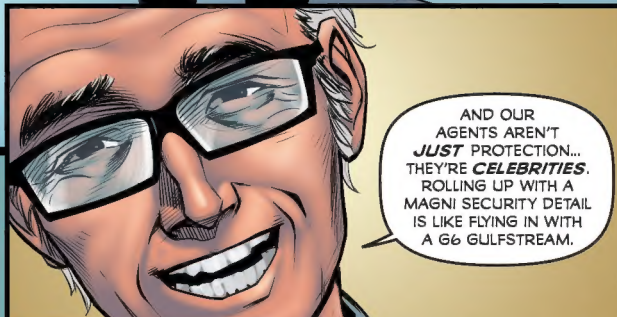


SINCE THE ATTACKS IN SYDNEY AND SAN DIEGO*, PERSONAL SECURITY HAS BECOME THE HOTTEST MARKET ON THE PLANET.

OUR CLIENTS DON'T KNOW WHERE THE NEXT THREAT IS GOING TO COME FROM...THEY WANT TO BE PREPARED.

CLICK

*EDITOR'S NOTE:
SEE FATHOM
VOLUME 6.

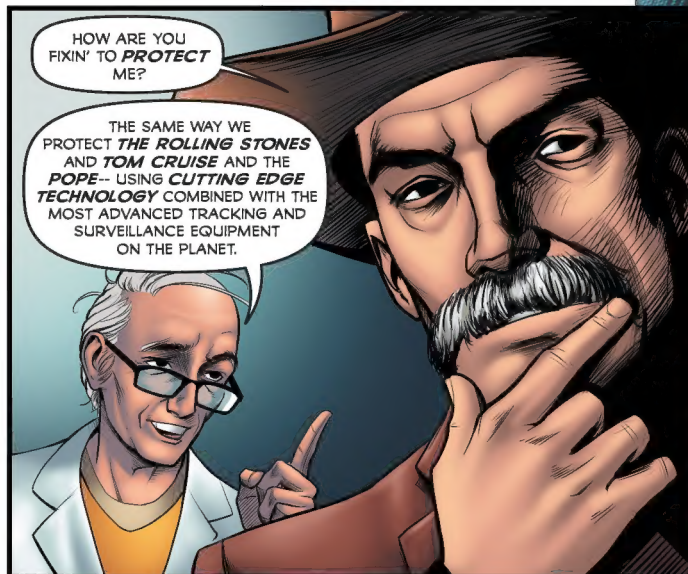


AND OUR AGENTS AREN'T **JUST** PROTECTION... THEY'RE **CELEBRITIES**. ROLLING UP WITH A MAGNI SECURITY DETAIL IS LIKE FLYING IN WITH A G6 GULFSTREAM.



I ALREADY HAVE PRIVATE JETS, DOC. AND **YACHTS**. AND MORE CARS THAN I CAN SHAKE A STICK AT.

WHAT I NEED IS THE **BEST**. MY OIL COMPANY MAKES ME THE SIXTH RICHEST MAN IN AMERICA, WHICH MEANS I GOT A TARGET ON MY BACK LIKE THE BROAD SIDE OF A BARN.



HOW ARE YOU
FIXIN' TO **PROTECT**
ME?

THE SAME WAY WE
PROTECT **THE ROLLING STONES**
AND **TOM CRUISE** AND THE
POPE-- USING **CUTTING EDGE**
TECHNOLOGY COMBINED WITH THE
MOST ADVANCED TRACKING AND
SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT
ON THE PLANET.



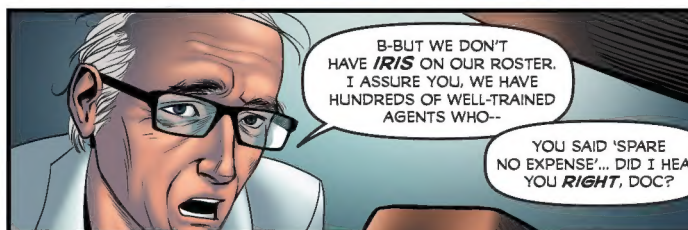
WE HAVE TOYS EVEN THE
NSA DOESN'T KNOW EXIST.
OUR UNIQUE PARTNERSHIPS
AFFORD US A LEG UP ON
THE COMPETITION.



THE WORLD IS A
DANGEROUS PLACE, MR.
BRUNSON. WITH OUR AGENTS
AND TECH, YOUR SAFETY
IS **GUARANTEED**.

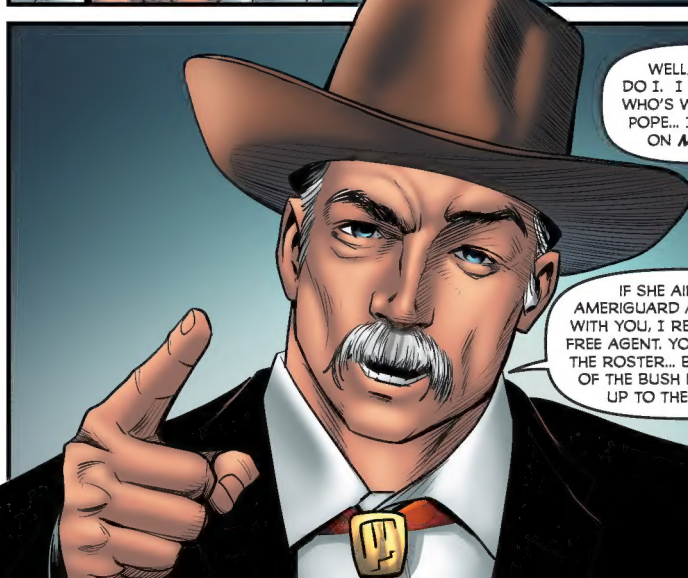
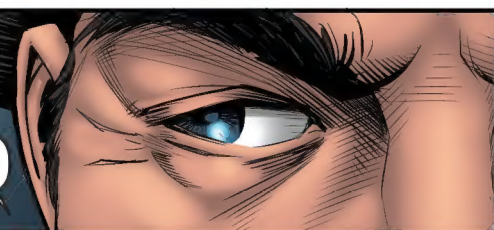


NOW **THIS** IS
GUMPTION. NO NEED
FOR FANCY GADGETS: JUST
SOME OLD SCHOOL, COUNTRY
ASS KICKIN'. **THIS** IS
WHO I WANT.



B-BUT WE DON'T
HAVE **IRIS** ON OUR ROSTER.
I ASSURE YOU, WE HAVE
HUNDREDS OF WELL-TRAINED
AGENTS WHO--

YOU SAID 'SPARE
NO EXPENSE'... DID I HEAR
YOU **RIGHT**, DOC?



WELL, NEITHER
DO I. I DON'T CARE
WHO'S WATCHIN' THE
POPE... I WANT HER
ON **MY** TEAM.

IF SHE AIN'T WITH
AMERIGUARD AND SHE AIN'T
WITH YOU, I RECKON SHE'S A
FREE AGENT. YOU GET HER **ON**
THE ROSTER... BRING HER OUT
OF THE BUSH LEAGUES AND
UP TO THE MAJORS.



AND I'LL
TRIPLE YOUR
FEE.

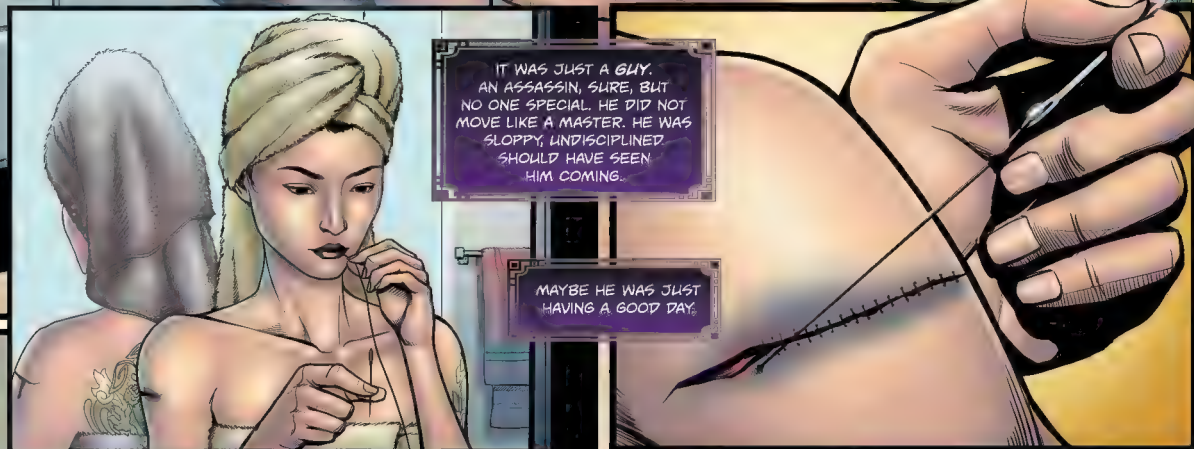
I AM NOT A TEENAGER ANYMORE.
I AM STILL IN MY PRIME, BUT MY
MUSCLES ARE NOT AS FLEXIBLE AS THEY
ONCE WERE... MY JOINTS ARE A LITTLE
STIFFER, REACTION TIME A LITTLE SLOWER.

I USED TO BE
FAST. I COULD CATCH A
SHURIKEN IN MID-FLIGHT
LIKE I WAS GRABBING
A FRISBEE. SWORDS
AND SPEARS MOVED
IN SLOW-MOTION.

I WOULD GO ENTIRE ROUNDS
IN HIGH-LEVEL SPARRING
WITHOUT GETTING TOUCHED.



TODAY I GOT CAUGHT. IT WAS NOT BY A SHAOLIN MONK OR SOME ELITE BLACK-BELT. WITH YEARS OF EXPERIENCE



IT WAS JUST A GUY. AN ASSASSIN, SURE, BUT NO ONE SPECIAL. HE DID NOT MOVE LIKE A MASTER. HE WAS SLOPPY, UNDISCIPLINED. SHOULD HAVE SEEN HIM COMING.

MAYBE HE WAS JUST HAVING A GOOD DAY.

OR I WAS HAVING A BAD ONE.

BZZT
BZZT



<Request to meet at Nagashima plaza, Los Angeles 3:00pm, Dr. Zyra - Contract to be negotiated>



I'M DR. ZYRA. AND YOU MUST BE *IRIS*. MY APOLOGIES FOR THE SECURITY...

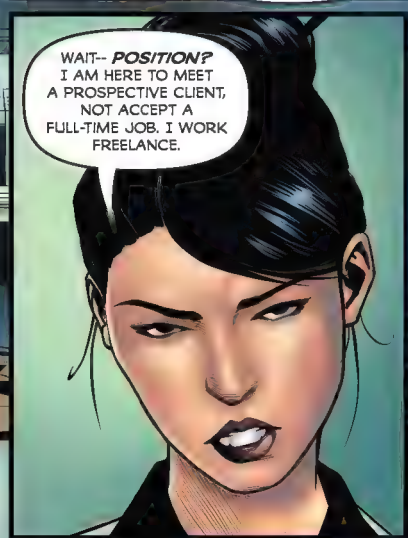
...CAN'T BE TOO CAREFUL IN THIS INDUSTRY. YOU'RE NOT GOING TO MISS YOUR WEAPONS, ARE YOU?

IF I NEEDED A WEAPON TO DEFEND MYSELF I WOULD NOT BE MUCH OF AN EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT.

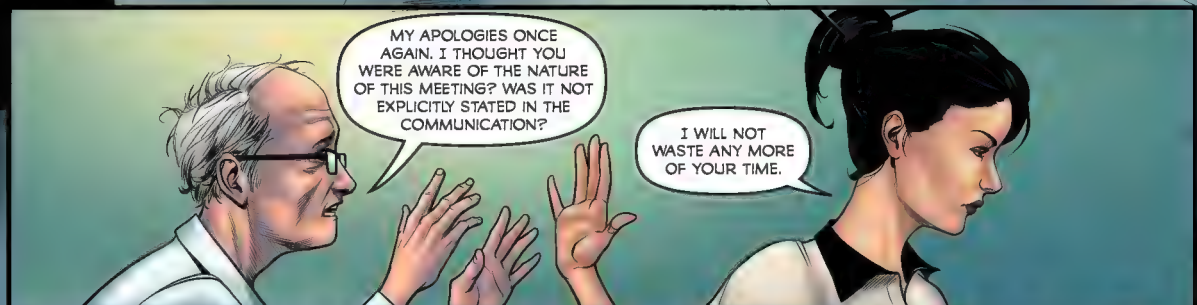


AH, RIGHT-- THAT'S WHAT AGENTS USED TO BE CALLED.

I THINK YOU'LL FIND THE SECURITY GAME HAS CHANGED **A LOT** IN RECENT YEARS. IF YOU ACCEPT THIS POSITION, I'LL--



WAIT-- **POSITION?** I AM HERE TO MEET A PROSPECTIVE CLIENT, NOT ACCEPT A FULL-TIME JOB. I WORK FREELANCE.



MY APOLOGIES ONCE AGAIN. I THOUGHT YOU WERE AWARE OF THE NATURE OF THIS MEETING? WAS IT NOT EXPLICITLY STATED IN THE COMMUNICATION?

I WILL NOT WASTE ANY MORE OF YOUR TIME.



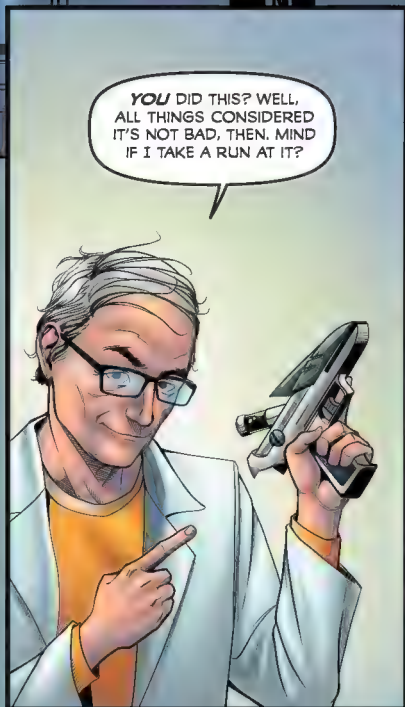
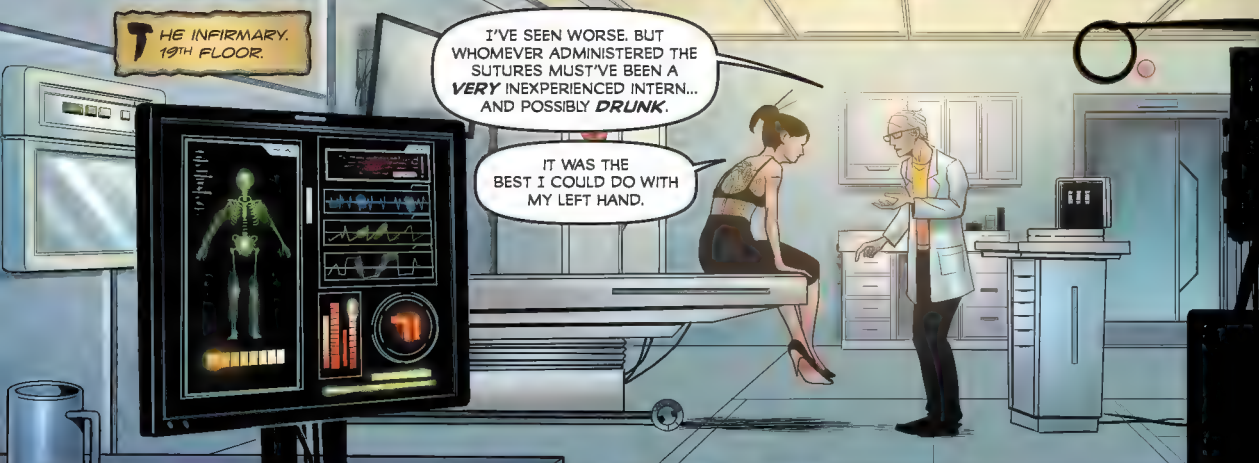
WAIT, **PLEASE**, DON'T LEAVE--

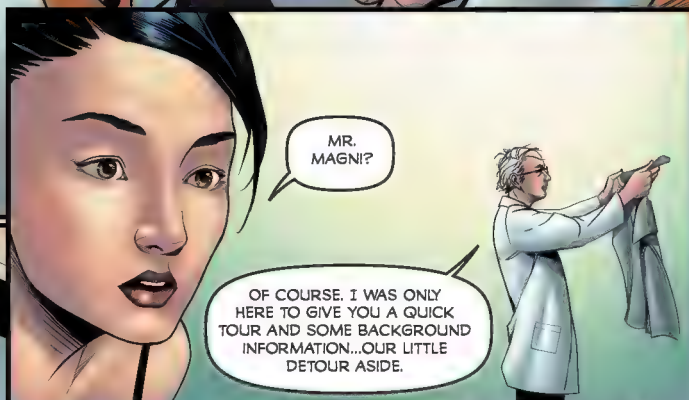
NGGGH!



YOUR SHOULDER... ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

I AM **FINE**.





MR. MAGNI'S OFFICE.
64TH FLOOR.

AND *THIS*
MUST BE THE FABLED
'IRIS' I KEEP HEARING
ABOUT. I'M ALEXANDER
MAGNI THE THIRD.
CALL ME ALEX.

I'VE HEARD
AMAZING THINGS ABOUT YOU,
DARLING. YOU ONCE TOOK OUT
A BIKER GANG USING JUST THE
CHOPSTICKS IN YOUR HAIR.
IS THAT RIGHT?

DO NOT BELIEVE
EVERYTHING YOU
SEE ON **CMZ**.

OH, DON'T
BE MODEST...
I WATCH THE NEWS.
I READ THE TRADES. YOU'RE A
LEGITIMATE **STAR**.
I HAVE TO ASK:
HOW DID YOU
KNOW THE ATTACK
WAS COMING IN
FRANKFURT?

MISDIRECTION. THE
PARROT WAS AN OBVIOUS
DECOY. IT IS ASSASSINATION
BASICS 101. YOU GET THE
TARGET LOOKING
ONE WAY...

...AND YOU
COME AT
THEM FROM
THE OTHER.

FANTASTIC! SEE?
THIS IS WHAT WE NEED
HERE AT MAGNI!...SOME
OLD SCHOOL AGENTS WHO
CAN IMPROVISE, THINK
ON THEIR FEET.

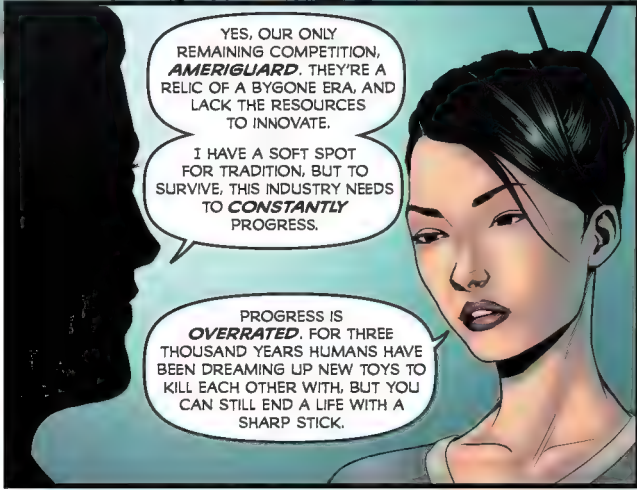
INDEED. LET
ME TAKE YOU ON
A TOUR OF THE
FACILITIES...



R RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT.
33RD FLOOR.

EVERY SECURITY FIRM IN THE WORLD MUST BE FALLING OVER EACH OTHER TO SIGN YOU TO AN **EXCLUSIVE CONTRACT**.

JUST TWO. I HAVE ALREADY TURNED THE OTHER ONE DOWN.



YES, OUR ONLY REMAINING COMPETITION, **AMERIGUARD**. THEY'RE A RELIC OF A BYGONE ERA, AND LACK THE RESOURCES TO INNOVATE.

I HAVE A SOFT SPOT FOR TRADITION, BUT TO SURVIVE, THIS INDUSTRY NEEDS TO **CONSTANTLY** PROGRESS.

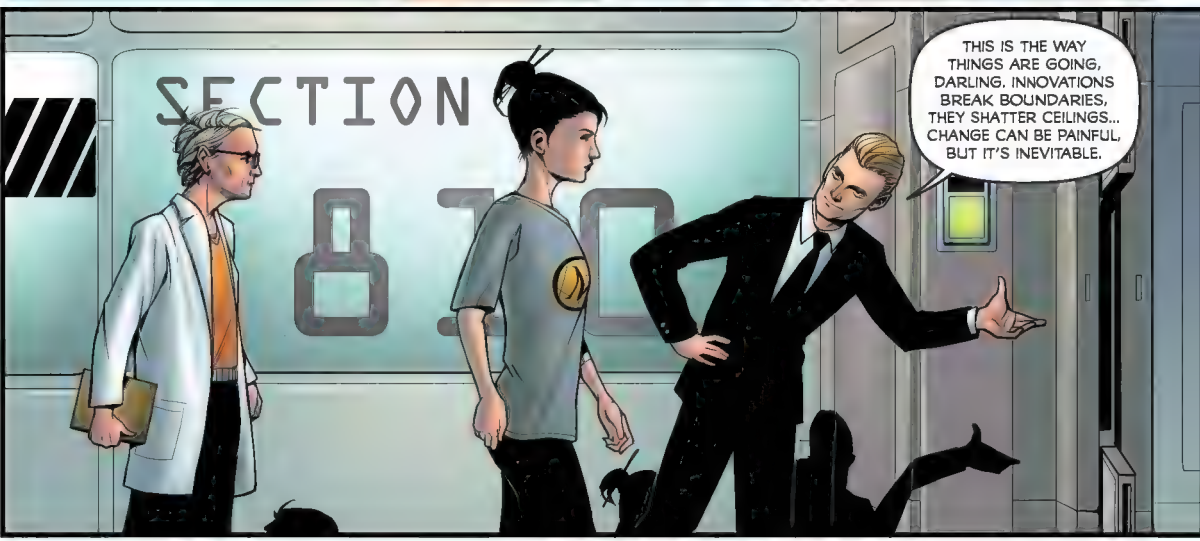
PROGRESS IS **OVERRATED**. FOR THREE THOUSAND YEARS HUMANS HAVE BEEN DREAMING UP NEW TOYS TO KILL EACH OTHER WITH, BUT YOU CAN STILL END A LIFE WITH A SHARP STICK.



BUT EVEN **YOU** HAVE TO AGREE, IT HAS IT'S USES.

BY THE WAY, HOW'S THE SHOULDER?

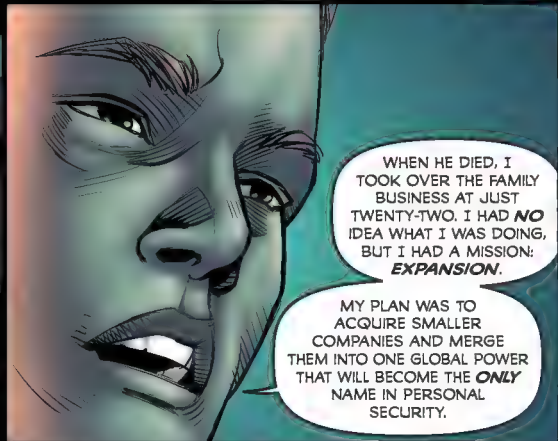
BETTER.



THIS IS THE WAY THINGS ARE GOING, DARLING. INNOVATIONS BREAK BOUNDARIES, THEY SHATTER CEILINGS... CHANGE CAN BE PAINFUL, BUT IT'S INEVITABLE.



MY FATHER STARTED MAGNI CORP. HE WOULD ALWAYS SAY, 'CHANGE IS INEVITABLE. **PROGRESS** ISN'T.' THE WORLD IS GOING TO CHANGE WHETHER YOU LIKE IT OR NOT...IT'S UP TO **YOU** TO ADAPT.



WHEN HE DIED, I TOOK OVER THE FAMILY BUSINESS AT JUST TWENTY-TWO. I HAD **NO** IDEA WHAT I WAS DOING, BUT I HAD A MISSION: **EXPANSION**.

MY PLAN WAS TO ACQUIRE SMALLER COMPANIES AND MERGE THEM INTO ONE GLOBAL POWER THAT WILL BECOME THE **ONLY** NAME IN PERSONAL SECURITY.



THAT SOUNDS... **AMBITIOUS**.

IF YOU'RE NOT GROWING, YOU'RE SHRINKING. IF YOU'RE NOT CONSTANTLY MOVING FORWARD, YOU'RE LOSING GROUND.



THE HINROTH. NASTY LITTLE CREATURES, AREN'T THEY? BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS DEVELOPED THOUSANDS OF YEARS AGO BY OUR FRIENDS UNDER THE SEA.

THANKS TO THIS LIQUID DESIGNED BY DR. ZYRA, THEY'RE RENDERED...WHAT'S THE WORD?



IT'S A GEL THAT PRESERVES TISSUE IN A NON-CRYOGENIC STASIS, RENDERING IT UNABLE TO REPLICATE CELLS. BUT IT KEEPS THE SAMPLES **VIALE**.



IF YOU HAD TO PROTECT A CLIENT AGAINST ONE OF THESE-- THE **FULL-SIZED** ONES-- WHAT WOULD YOU DO, IRIS? STAB IT WITH A SWORD?

YOU WOULD BE SURPRISED HOW MANY THINGS I CAN KILL WITH A SWORD.



IT'S NOT JUST **ASSASSINS** YOU'RE UP AGAINST. THIS IS THE NEW WORLD... IT'S A THREE-DIMENSIONAL CHESS GAME, AND THE BOARD IS FILLED WITH GODS AND MONSTERS.

WE HAVE THE MOST ADVANCED TRACKING ON THE PLANET... YOU WOULD ALWAYS HAVE BACK-UP. YOU'D NEVER BE **ALONE** IN THE FIELD.



I HAVE SURVIVED THIS LONG WITHOUT HELP. WHEN AN EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT IS PROPERLY TRAINED, SHE DOES NOT NEED ANYONE ELSE.

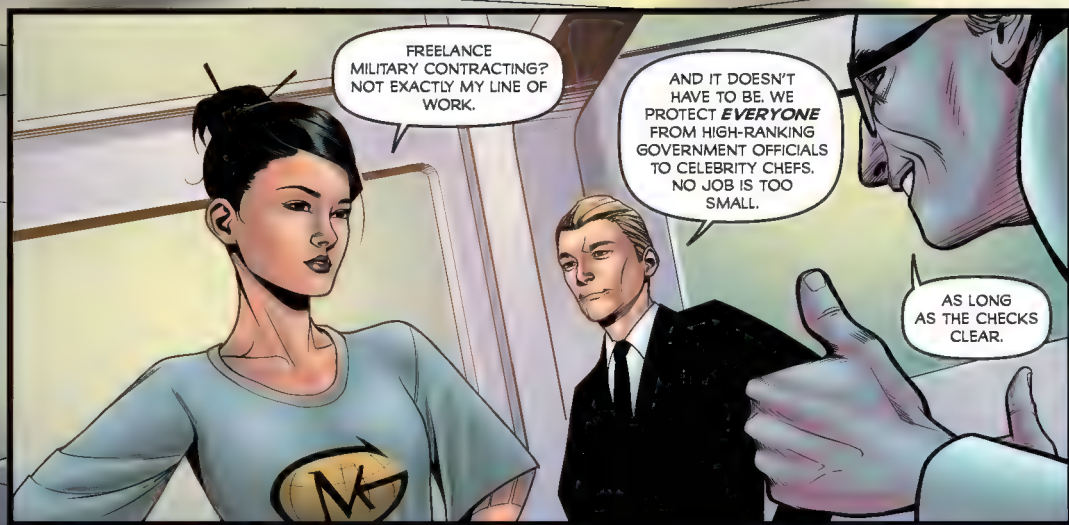
WITH ALL DUE RESPECT: DODGING KNIVES AND BULLETS ISN'T A SKILL-- IT'S **LUCK**, DARLING. YOU'RE A SPECTACULAR AGENT, BUT ONE DAY YOU'RE GOING TO ZIG WHEN YOU SHOULD'VE ZAGGED.

LUCK RUNS OUT.

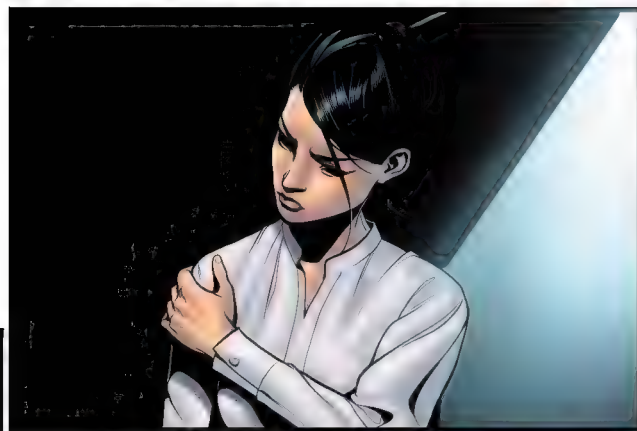


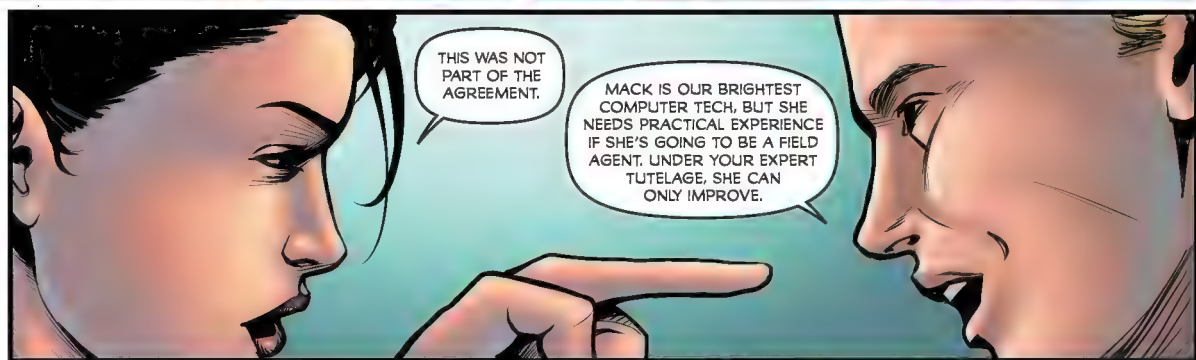
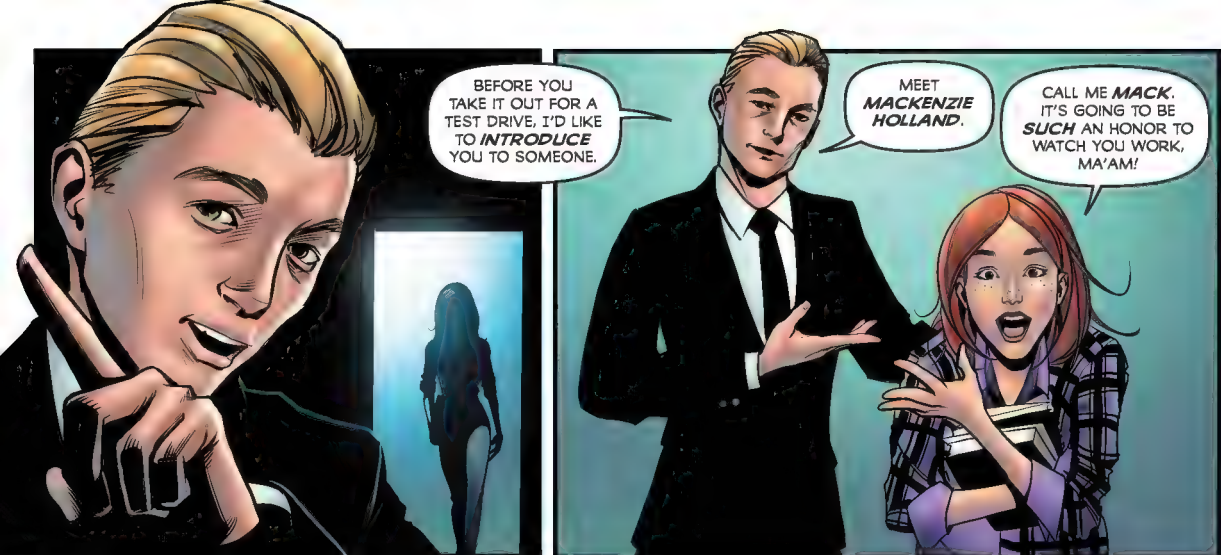
WE HAVE THE ARMOR, THE WEAPONS, AND AS YOU'VE SEEN, THE MEDICAL CARE TO GUARANTEE YOUR SAFETY. OUR AGENTS ARE TREATED LIKE ROYALTY.

EVEN BETTER... LIKE **CELEBRITIES**.









NEXT ISSUE...

Celebrating 10 years!

10th

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT Vol. 5 It's #2



A New Force is Rising!

Blake NORTHCOTT

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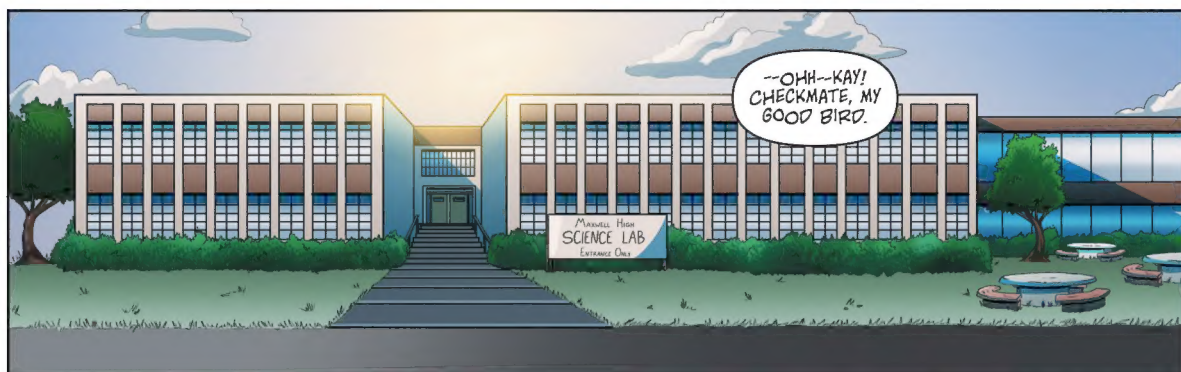
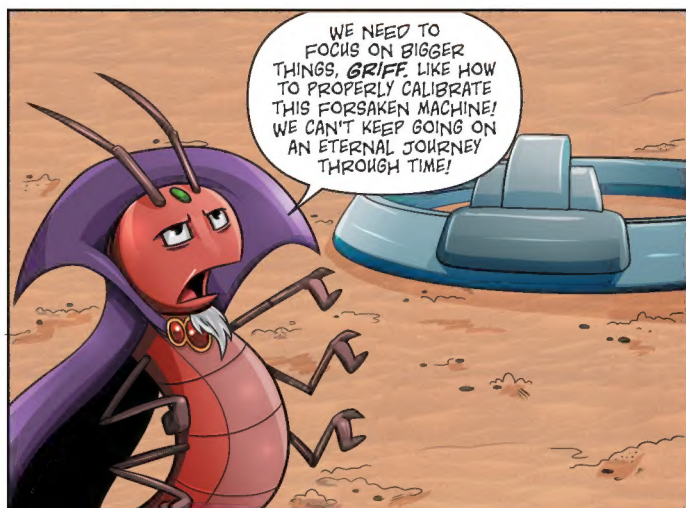
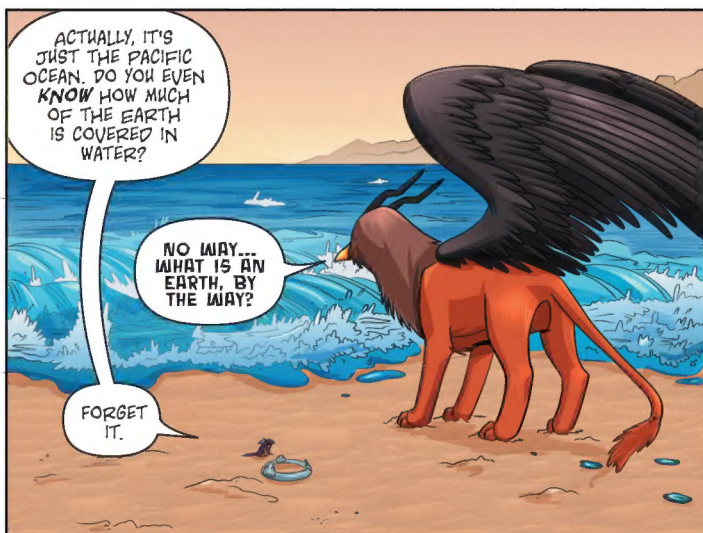
"Big Earl!"

writer: Vince Hernandez

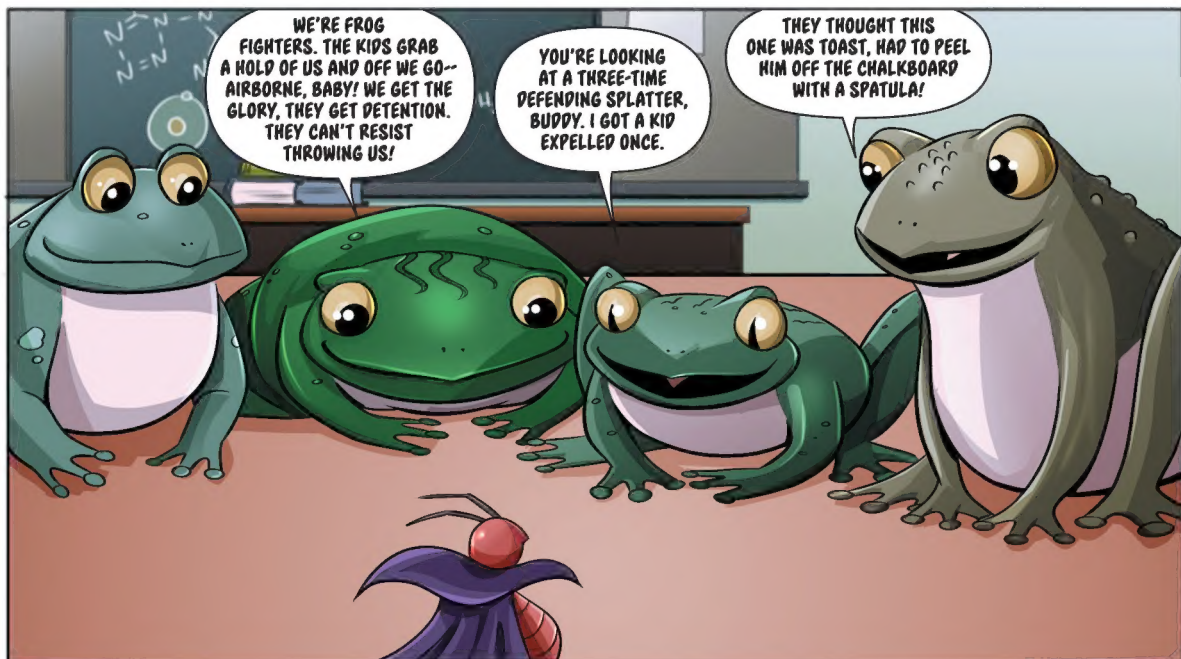
pencil & inks: Joie Foster | colors: Justice

letterer: Micah Myers | editor: Gabe Carrasco

Chapter Four









To Be Continued
Chapter Five
Coming Next Month!